PUPILS AT WHEATCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL (2001).Working as a Team: children and teachers learning from each other, Forum, 2, 51-53.

These are great quotes of authentic ideas from school children about having their voice heard.

*I think that a lot of schools would benefit from listening to pupil voice. That way pupils feel better by knowing that teachers will listen to them. I know that almost everybody in our school does.*

*I think that the pupil voice assemblies have helped a lot. It’s nice to know that some teachers want to know how we feel about learning. The tuck shop opened a few weeks ago because one child said he was too hungry to learn. Now, every morning break, the cooks sell biscuits that they have baked themselves.*

*I think it is important that the children and teachers have a good relationship – it makes working much easier.*

*I believe that you can learn without writing.*

*We have opportunities to work, play and help with younger children. This helps me to get on with people. It calms me down and helps me to get to know them and for them to get to know me. It is good for them to have someone to look up to and someone who is there for them.*

*Wheatcroft has helped me to be me and without the support I have received I would have been upset and depressed.*

*I think I’m very lucky to be in a school like Wheatcroft where the teachers listen to your opinions and ideas. We have assemblies every week where we talk about new ideas and solutions for our school an every comment is valued*

*Everyone in our school including the teachers all agree on pupil voice and all think and know that the children are the people who are learning, so they should all have a say about learning.*

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*Here at Wheatcroft we have about 290 children, all of whom have different problems and feelings, but we always try to sort things out.*

*I think the best thing about Wheatcroft is that we can always talk to teachers about things, they’ll always understand. It’s important that we get things sorted because if we don’t then that’s all we’ll be thinking about and we’ll be too busy worrying to concentrate on work. I really enjoy being at Wheatcroft and being with my friends. We can have fun and be educated at the same time. Wheatcroft is brilliant and I think it’s because we get a say in everything.*

*The teachers at Wheatcroft ask children how they feel about the school and if there are any problems. Where there are problems the teachers try to solve them. It is very important for teachers to ask children their point of view.*

*I think it is an excellent idea that the teachers and children can work together and be a team. I think we have achieved a lot to work together*

matter and will make a difference. Clare notes how important it is ‘to have your voice heard... because it ‘makes you feel free’. However, she reminds us that ‘it is a big responsibility for teachers to make children have good futures’.